

HEAD QUARTERS, 1ST DIVISION, 13TH ARMY CORPS. }
MATAGORDA ISLAND, TEXAS, MARCH 31st. 1864. }

SOLDIERS OF THE 1ST DIVISION:

I should do violence to my feelings should I leave my present command without a word of farewell at parting.

Circumstances have seemed to render it advisable that I should seek to be engaged more actively than I can be here at present; and the Major General Commanding the Department, has been kind enough to relieve me, at my own request.

Officers and men! one and all—with sincerity and with feeling I speak it—my connection with you has been rendered so agreeable and so gratifying by your own excellent qualities, that I feel sad and depressed at the change I have asked for.

Coming from the same section of country with yourselves, I have felt a very great pride in your written history and I coveted the honor of leading you through the fire and connecting my name with your past noble achievements and with the sacred graves of the many heroes you have laid beneath the sod on your victorious fields.

The guns of the 13th Corps will always awaken the liveliest impulses of my heart. I shall listen for their echoes, and, whilst I may not continue to indulge the hope of rejoining you and sharing your honors and your sufferings, my voice will be joined in the grand chorus of the countless thousands who inhabit our boundless prairies, when, with shouts of triumph, they shall hail you returning in the fullness of victory to your peaceful homes.

Wishing you all safely through your dangers—

I am, your friend and comrade,

N. J. T. DANA,

Major General.

